foreign Investment in Telecom Sector

*75. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed any programme for creating more infrastrusture facilities in Telecom Sector based on latest technology;

(b) whether it is a fact that some M.N.Cs. having the latest technology, in this field are ready for investment in infrastructure facilities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total foreign investment envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Due to rapid changes in Telecom technologies, development and related creation of infrastructure facilities is a continuous process. Old analogue and electro-mechanical technologies are being substituted by latest digital technologies.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. some of the major foreign manufacturers including MNCs have submitted their proposals for foreign investment in the area of modern and latest technologies in telecom sector. A list of the major proposals which have been approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is enclosed as statement.

Statement

List of the Major Proposals which have been approved by F.I.P.B. in the areas of Modern and Latest Technologies in Telecom sector (up to 31.1.97)

S. No.	Name of the Foreign Company	Name of equipment/ Technology	Approved Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
1.	Nokia, Finland	Base stations for Wireless equipment.	Rs. 35 crores
2.	Qualcomm Incorporated, USA.	Digital Wireless Communication Equipment (WLL)	Rs. 140 crores
3.	Advance Fibre Communication, USA.	Digital Loop Carrier (WLL)	Rs. 35 crores
4.	Harris Corporation USA.	WLL, ISDN, etc.	Rs. 35 crores
5.	Nortel Mauritius Ltd., Mauritius.	WLL, SDH, etc.	Rs. 157.5 crores
6.	Fujitsu, Japan.	SDH	Rs. 31.72 crores
7.	Samsung Electronics Corp. Ltd., Korea	SDH Equipment	Rs. 37.5 crores

Textile Mills under NTC

*76. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills managed or supervised by the National Textile Corporation;

(b) the total amount of profit/loss accruing to the Corporation during each of the last three years from these mills;

(c) the number of mills that are continuously making losses for five years or more and are sick beyond redemption; and

(d) whether Government propose to sell off such mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) There are 120 nationalised mills under the National Textile Corporation.

(b) The total net loss incurred by the NTC mills during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Loss (Rs. in crores)
1993-94	785.87
1994-95	424.43
1995-96 (provisional)	466.27

(c) and (d) 101 mills under NTC have been continuously making net losses during the last five years. Due to continuous losses and net worth erosion, 8 out of 9 subsidiary Corporations of NTC have been referred to the BIFR and the BIFR has declared them to bed sick industrial companies. The rehabilitation package approved by the Government has been placed before the BIFR for consideration. There is at present no proposal with the Government to privatise the NTC mills.

पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में मैनुअल एक्सचेंजों को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंजों में बदला जाना

*77. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश मे सभी मैनुअल एक्सचेंजों को इलैक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंजों मे बदल दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश के सभी एक्सचेंजों को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंजों में कब तक बदल दिया जाएगा?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) उपर्युक्त भाग (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) (i) मार्च, 1997 तक स्ट्रोजर किस्म के 4 छोटे आटोमेटिक (मैक्स—III) एक्सचेंजों के स्थान पर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंज लगाए जाने का लक्ष्य है।

(ii) 9वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान स्ट्रोजर किस्म के 2 मैक्स—1 तथा 3 क्रॉसबार आटोमेटिक एक्सचेंजों के स्थान पर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एक्सचेंज लगाए जाने की योजना है।

Privatisation of Inland Waterways

*78. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised plans for a large scale privatisation of the Inland Waterways Transport sector; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the other aspects of the plan being considered;

(c) whether a suggestion of a special soft term fund is also being considered; and

(d) the term of foreign subsidy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) While there is no proposal to privatise existing National Waterways currently managed by Inland Waterways Authority of India, transportation of goods on the waterways is already open to private sector. Plans are being prepared to attract private investment in setting up terminals, cargo handling facilities etc.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Foreign assistance in IWT development, both technical and financial, is sought whenever necessary.